Fake currency rackets

526. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of fake currency rackets operating in the country these days;

(b) if so, the number of such gangs arrested during the years, 2006-07 and 2007-08 til date;

(c) the total currency amount seized from them year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to put an end to such rackets and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance and work culture of Public Sector Banks

527. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held any meeting with Indian Banks Association recently;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda of the meeting and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Public Sector Bank's poor work culture, poor customer relations and their lower profit as compared with private banks were discussed during the meeting;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) A meeting of the Chief Executives of the public sector banks (PSBs) with the Finance Minister (FM) was held on 12th February, 2008. The agenda of the meeting included review of financial performance of PSBs and discussion on credit delivery and credit quality, Scheme for extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings 2007, proposals submitted by the Indian Banks' Association for the Union Budget 2008-09, etc.

In the meeting, FM emphasised the need for stimulating growth in the economy, and impressed upon the banks to ensure better credit delivery and credit quality at affordable costs. FM also review the performance of the PSBs *vis-a-vis* their Statement of Intent on Annual Goals (ScI) for the year 2007-08 and urged them to further improve their performance.

Education loans

528. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and amount of educational loans given in the last three years;

(b) the total amount outstanding;

(c) the total number of applications received and the number of applications for loans rejected; and